

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

[00030] The present invention is a method and apparatus for transferring data between a wide area network and a computer system located on an Ethernet type local area network. When characterized as a method, the present invention initially receives data from the wide area network using a digital device that is connected to both the wide area network and the local area network, the data received by the digital device being destined for a computer system attached to the local area network. Next, the digital device receives a signal from systems in the wide area network indicating that the data is to be transferred to and from the computer system at a predetermined guaranteed quality of service (QoS) and bandwidth. Packets that contain the data are then formatted to indicate that the data is to be transmitted at a “guaranteed” rate of throughput higher than the minimum rate. Finally, the packets that contain the data are sent to the computer system, thereby establishing a communication link for the packet stream between the wide area network and the local area network that transmits data at the guaranteed QoS.